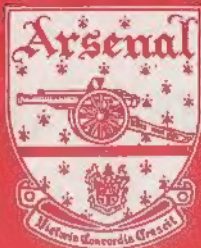


F.A. Cup Winners
1930, 1936, 1950



League Champions
1931, 1933, 1934, 1935,
1938, 1948, 1953

Arsenal

FOOTBALL CLUB



Season 1956-7

Football League Division I

Saturday, 1st September, 1956

ARSENAL v. WEST BROMWICH A.

KICK-OFF 3 p.m.

OFFICIAL

6^d

PROGRAMME

ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Directors

SIR BRACEWELL SMITH, Bart., K.C.V.O.
(Chairman)

COMMANDER A. F. BONE, R.D., R.N.R., RETD.

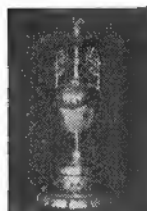
J. W. JOYCE, Esq.

D. J. C. H. HILL-WOOD, Esq.

G. BRACEWELL-SMITH, Esq., M.B.E., B.A.

Secretary-Manager

T. J. WHITTAKER, M.B.E.



LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
1931, 1933, 1934,
1935, 1938, 1948,
1953

Colours—Shirts: Red, White
Sleeves & Collars, Knickers:
White. Stockings: Blue,
White rings, White tops.



F.A. CUP WINNERS
1930, 1936, 1950

ARSENAL STADIUM,
HIGHBURY, N.3

Grounds:—
GUNNERS' GROUND,
FINSPARK, LONDON

Vol. XXXVIII No. 3

Saturday, 1st September, 1956

Voice of Arsenal

PERHAPS most of the critics and, for that matter, many Arsenal fans did not credit our boys with much of a chance when they left for Birmingham last Saturday and everyone must have been pleasantly surprised to find us two goals in hand before half-time. One was tempted to think "It takes three to beat" and other such platitudes, yet everyone who knows football knows that that is the surest way to defeat.

It was not like that with our boys. Although they were still leading by two goals only twenty minutes from the end they knew well enough that this hard-fighting Birmingham side, despite their poor finishing throughout the game up to that point, was capable of pulling anything out of the bag. That they did is now history but what electrifying football they produced to attain it! This is not the place to go into details as a report of the match appears in another part of this issue.

Those of you who have followed football for many years are certain to remember special games which stick in your memory, especially those which finish in similar circumstances to this game. A team, playing mediocre football, suddenly galvanised into life by the inspired act of one player who, perhaps even not knowing the why and wherefore himself, changes the whole

trend of the game and brings about victory for his team. That is the story of Peter Murphy who, in a split second, was transformed into a weaving, twisting, unstoppable "demon" to head home an Astall centre and put the St. Andrews side back in the game when all seemed lost on that day.

Had Birmingham won in an ordinary, uneventful manner on their own ground nobody would have been particularly surprised; had we been able to win a point most people would have said "a good performance" but it is disappointing to hold a two-goal lead for so long and then, in a twenty-minute flurry, not only lose that advantage but to concede four goals into the bargain. These things happen from time to time to all clubs and the only thing now to be done about it is to put it behind us as an unfortunate experience and settle down to better things.

Whilst this was going on a similar incident was being enacted in reverse at Highbury where our Combination team met Ipswich Town. At half-time we were 2-1 down but in the second half our youngsters got well on top and finished with a 5-2 victory with goals from Swallow (2), Herd, Nutt and Groves. An outstanding performance by young Johnny Petts at left-half was the feature of the afternoon, and, des-

pite his extreme youth, he gave a perfect display of tenacity, judgment, accurate passing and team-work which, when wrapped up into one individual, sets the hall-mark of a great player. If Johnny continues to produce this form he will, with experience, become one of the greatest of all wing half-backs.

Encouraging too was the form of Swallow and Herd, the inside forwards, who were a constant danger in front of goal on their own account and yet found time to send through streams of accurate passes for Vic Groves at centre-forward, playing in his first public match since his close season knee operation. Vic had a very good match and repeatedly showed his class, culminating in the scoring of our final goal in a fashion which brought a handclap from the Ipswich goalkeeper.

McMillan, in the Ipswich goal, played the game of his life and won the approbation of the crowd with some magnificent saves including several low, hard shots which he literally punched off the goal line at full stretch. Had it not been for his agile display we might well have reached double figures. This performance by our youngsters is most encouraging for the future.

Late Kick-offs

Our supporters will remember that in a recent programme we asked you to let us know your views on the 7.30 p.m. kick-off for League matches in the mid-week. The replies received by us are in favour but one supporter has written to lodge the only objection to date.

Mr. A. Harvey of London, N.W., writes in the following strain:—"Following football has always entailed certain inconveniences. Those who are not numbered amongst the game's alleged missing millions have never, in my hearing, complained about the times of kick-off, but I have heard them complain about getting away."

You should have second thoughts about making football an all-night game (kick-off 7.30 p.m.) and also about adding darkness to the cold in winter (kick-off 3.0 p.m.). I did not think that my ardour for the game would be dampened by any inconvenience, but arriving home at 10.0 p.m. after Tuesday evening's game has already decided me not to do it again.

Incidentally, has no one yet dared to say that watching football by floodlight makes it all so evident that the game can only be clearly followed (from any part of the ground) in daylight? Floodlight is a very obvious second best and should never

supersede daylight in the interest of convenience."

We are obliged to Mr. Harvey for his interesting and lucid summing-up of the facts as he sees them. We must say, however, that from the correspondence received to date there is no evidence to support his contentions. Most people who have written say that they prefer the 7.30 p.m. kick-off at this time of the year but not, of course, after the middle of October when the evenings start to get really cold. As some point out, it is no more inconvenient than going to the theatre at that time of the evening.

With regard to the 3.0 p.m. kick-off in mid-winter instead of 2.15 p.m. there have been very few expressions of opinion, one way or the other. Most people presumably propose to wait until they have experienced next winter before passing an opinion. Those who have commented upon it merely say that the later kick-off will certainly be more convenient for them.

Finally, with regard to the question of viewing the match in floodlight, this is an entirely new angle on the problem and one which has not been put to us before. Many have said that they can follow floodlight games much more clearly (presumably because one concentrates much more when there are fewer distractions) but we cannot recollect any supporter complaining that he could not follow the play from any particular part of the ground.

We shall be happy to receive further correspondence from our fans on this subject and to deal with the expressions of opinion so voiced through the medium of the programme. Our one desire is to put on our matches at a time which suits the majority of our followers and we cannot assess the requirements unless you tell us.

Excursion

Going to Portsmouth next Saturday? If so will you please note that British Railways are running a Half-day Excursion by ordinary services from Waterloo; details as follows:—

Outward

Waterloo

dep. 11.40 a.m. & 12.10 p.m.

Portsmouth & Southsea

arr. 1.18 p.m. & 1.48 p.m.

Homeward

Passengers return by any train.

Return fare 10/6d.

Tickets obtainable from Waterloo Station or the usual Agents.

Injuries

It is ironical, yet in the nature of things, that in the one position (wing half-back) where we lack sufficient reserve strength we have, up to now, suffered our only serious injuries.

Before the season actually started Pete Coring was off with a damaged toe and has since been put out again by a damaged shoulder. Dave Bowen too, has had to come out of the team because of a pulled muscle. How often this happens at the most inconvenient periods will be confirmed by any and every football manager in the country.

Last Friday it looked very much as if we would have to go to Birmingham with the additional handicap of not having Dennis Evans in the team but fortunately, he was able to play. Len Wills remained at right-half, in which position he had a very good game against Burnley on the previous Tuesday, and Cliff Holton moved back to left-half.

At the time of writing this editorial it is difficult to say how soon this problem will right itself but there are indications that we may be at full strength this afternoon.

The League

Our heartiest congratulations to Luton Town, Nottingham Forest, Sheffield United, Swansea Town and Brentford for having gained maximum points after last Saturday's games. Nottingham Forest take the particular biscuit for scoring twelve goals in three matches with only three scored against. This sort of form, if continued throughout the season, should bring them back to the First Division status which they lost as long ago as 1925. We wish them every good luck and trust that their ambitions will be achieved after such a long lapse.

To our neighbours, Tottenham Hotspur, we also offer congratulations, not only for their fine win against Leeds United last Saturday but for their position as Runners-up when the table was published at the week-end.

With mid-week matches at this time of the season the situation may well have changed by the time we meet here this afternoon, but for all that, the record of these clubs at that particular time is worthy of comment and we trust that their success will continue.

Much can happen in the coming weeks with a very full and arduous programme in front of all clubs and the positions won

by the end of September will have a marked bearing upon the season's record. We hope that last Saturday's set-back will not worry our boys too much and that they will return to winning vein this afternoon.

Our Visitors

Just as in 1954, West Bromwich Albion can blame injury for their comparative lack of success last season, injury which caused them to switch players around with the consequent falling off in results. Their position at the end of the season, in the middle of the table, was safe enough but bigger things had been expected of them. For a long spell in the first half they had a magnificent defensive record but it did not hold throughout.

Although they have won the League Championship only once in their history, Albion have a great Cup-fighting record, having won the trophy four times and having been losing finalists on five occasions. Their first appearance in the Cup Final was in 1886 and the last in 1954 so that their Cup-fighting propensities have been spread over a very long period. In 1931 they had the unusual honour of winning the Cup and obtaining promotion from Division II in the Football League.

They were, with Preston North End whom we meet next Tuesday evening, one of the original members of the Football League and remained in the First Division until 1901. They won the Championship of Division II the next season but were relegated two years later. They came back in 1911 when they were again top of the Division II table.

In 1919-20 they won their one and only League Championship and did it right well by setting up a record number of points (60), which remained a record until we surpassed it ourselves in 1930-31.

The unsettled state of their attack last season was, to some extent, solved when they obtained the transfer of Robson from Fulham and it may well be that this season will show that they are once again a force in the First Division. Allen was their top goalscorer with 18 to his credit and whilst he remains a danger in front of goal it would not be surprising if Robson does not come into the goalscoring picture more this year. These are early days to forecast but Albion certainly look like a team to be reckoned with.

The results of past encounters between the two clubs which show that there is very little between us over the years is on Page 12.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

The following items of music will be included in the Programme of Music to be played by the Metropolitan Police Central Band, conducted by Mr. Roger Barsotti, A.R.C.M., Director of Music.

MARCH SELECTION	"My Regiment" "Robert Farnon Melodies"	Blakenburg arr. Duthoit	SELECTION	"Viva Mexico"	arr. Hammer
WALTZ SELECTION	"Dolores" "Oklahoma"	Waldteufel Rogers	GALOP	"Galopade"	arr. King-Palmer
TWO PINCES (a)	"The Jolly Jugglers"	Ellis	SELECTION	"Kismet"	Borodin
(b)	"Dance of the Panpipes"	Stewart	QUICK STEP	"Saturday Sports"	Burns

All engagements are by permission of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis,
Sir John Nott-Bower, K.C.V.O., and subject to the exigencies of the service.

Saturday, 25th August, 1956. Kick-off 3.0 p.m.
BIRMINGHAM TEAM: Merrick; Hall, Green; Watts, Smith, Werburst; Astall, Kinsey, Brown, Murphy, Gwynn.
ARSENAL TEAM: Kelsey; Charlton, Evans; Wills, Dodgins, Holton; Clapton, Tapscott, Roper, Bloomfield, Tiddy.
Result: Birmingham City 4, Arsenal 2.
Scorers: Holton, Roper.
Referee: Mr. A. L. Burnham (Market Harborough).

In the opening stages of this match Arsenal were well on top and the first shot for goal came from Cliff Holton which, unfortunately, went wide. Inevitably, the ball was skidding on the rain-soaked pitch and control was not easy.

As time went on Birmingham came more into the picture and Murphy sent in a good shot which just went by the post. Then Roper and Clapton combined to give the home side a shock, but Watts managed to scramble the ball away at the last minute. The home forward line was not moving with any great cohesion and only Gowan was making headway.

After 28 minutes the home side really did get a shock. Holton took a free-kick from nearly the half-way line and, although Tapscott raced to meet the ball, thereby distracting Merrick, he was unable to get to it and HOLTON had the satisfaction of seeing his free-kick become a goal. Birmingham — once tried to get on level terms but the keen Arsenal tackling kept them out. Then Tapscott fastened on a ball and, beating Green, sent a good pass to ROPER who put us further ahead after 36 minutes.

In the second half there was little to commend the home attack and our defence easily dealt with their thrusts until MURPHY weaved his way through and headed home a high centre from Astall in the 69th minute. Five minutes later, with their "tails up" the home attack came to life for the first time in the match and BROWN equalized.

Then Birmingham became the fighting machine for which they have earned such a reputation

and, although their ball control was not of a high standard they were at last going for goals. GOVAN scored their third in the 76th minute when he got well up to a cross.

Birmingham had scored three goals in six minutes to take the lead and this was nearly increased when Astall hit the cross-bar with a fine drive. It came to MURPHY, however, to set the final seal on their success.

Throughout the game there had been little for the home supporters to shout about and Arsenal certainly was the superior team. The great burst of enthusiasm that carried Birmingham to victory was worthy of their reputation and carried out in a fashion which redounds great credit on their fighting spirit, a spirit which carried them through to the Cup Final last season. We shall play worse and win many a match.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION I

	Home				Away				Goals	
	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A
Luton	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	9	3	6
Blackpool	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	12	10	6
Spurs	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	11	4	5
Birmingham	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	9	5	5
Man. U.	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	8	5	5
Burnley	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	5	8	5
Sheff. W.	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	9	5	4
Cardiff	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	8	5	4
Leeds U.	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	8	7	4
Aston V.	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	4	4
Newcastle	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	6	7	4
Bolton	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	6	3
W.B.A.	4	1	0	1	0	1	1	6	7	3
ARSENAL	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	6	7	3
Wolves	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	7	5	2
Man. C.	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	8	2
Portsmouth	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	5	6	2
Sunderland	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	6	8	2
Chelsea	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	2
Everton	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	7	15	1
Charlton	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	7	0
Preston	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	8	0

NEXT MATCHES AT THIS STADIUM

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PRESTON N. E.**

Tuesday, 4th September, 1956

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

**FOOTBALL COMBINATION
PORTSMOUTH**

Saturday, 8th September, 1956

Kick-off 3 p.m.

2 UP AT BIRMINGHAM



GOAL No. 1 FOR ARSENAL
Cliff Holton's long range free kick sends the ball into the Birmingham net.



GOAL No. 2 FOR ARSENAL
Don Roper rounds Smith to score the second

- W E T H E N L O S E 2 - 4



GOAL No. 1 FOR BIRMINGHAM

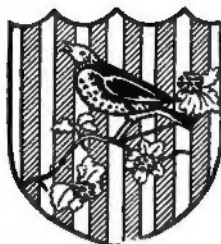
Murphy is heading home the goal which put Birmingham back in the game with twenty minutes to go



GOAL No. 2 FOR BIRMINGHAM

Brown gets the equaliser with a fast rising shot. Goals No. 3 and No. 4 were to follow

W.B.A.



PLAYERS

JIM SANDERS (Goalkeeper): This good club-man will long be remembered as the player who got his real chance of a regular place by the unfortunate injury which kept Norman Heath out of the 1954 Cup Final against Preston. Has since been an automatic choice, playing in 41 League matches last season. Born at Sidcup, he started his career at nearby Charlton, moving to the Hawthorns in 1945 at the moderate fee of £2,500. A fearless player, it was at one time thought that war wounds might cut short his career.

DON HOWE (Right-back): One of the most promising of Albion's younger school he came to the fore during the latter part of last season, winning an England "Under 23" cap against Young Scotland. Wolverhampton born, he went straight from school to West Bromwich and signed professional forms in November, 1952, a month after his 17th birthday. Fast and clever he uses the ball intelligently.

STUART WILLIAMS (Left-back): Normally right-back he has this season been switched to the left in place of Len Millard. Was for several years recognised as Albion's utility man. Joined them in 1950 from Wrexham, where his father was a director, as a centre-forward; switched to left-half and finally two years ago established himself as the regular right-back. First capped in 1953-54, he has played altogether six times for Wales.

LEN MILLARD (Left-back): A long established favourite with the crowd at the Hawthorns he is Albion's senior professional, having joined them in 1939. Captained the club in their Wembley Cup triumph against Preston in 1954 and has played in every position, including, in an emergency, goal! Has also scored a hat-trick from centre-forward. Automatic choice for the left-back position for several seasons, he stood down for Williams at the start of this campaign.

JIMMY DUDLEY (Right-half): A Scottish "B" international, he owes his qualification to the fact that he was born north of the border though his parents came from the Midlands. It was in the Midlands that this fair-haired player first attracted the attention of the scouts and he joined for West Bromwich in 1946 while with a local youth team. Originally an inside-forward, but soon proved an even better wing-half.

JOE KENNEDY (Centre-half): A talented and versatile defender who can play equally well at full-back and centre-half. He played at right-back in the 1954 Cup Final. Very strong in the air, he is a cool, hard-to-beat player, who makes good use of the ball. Kennedy has been unlucky with injuries and but for this would have gained more representative honours. He played twice for England "B" last season.

BILL BROOKES (Centre-half): This youngster from Dudley has made odd appearances in the first team in the last season or two. He can also play well at wing-half. Tall and strong, he is very light on his feet for a big man, and always tries to play good football. He seems sure to bid strongly for a regular first-team place.

RAY BARLOW (Left-half): This tall, fair-haired player is ever prominent, both in attack and defence. Born at Swindon, he has been with Albion twelve seasons and has figured frequently in the attack although best suited by the wing-half berth. Fond of going upfield to use his powerful shot. Capped against Ireland in 1954-55, and also has England "B" honours.

FRANK GRIFFIN (Outside-right): The Albion made one of their best buys when, in April, 1951, they paid Shrewsbury Town £9,000 for this Manchester-born winger. He will always be connected with the 1954 F.A. Cup Final when he scored the third and decisive goal in a dramatic victory over Preston. A clever ball-player he owes much to the coaching of Sammy Crooks, the former Derby and England winger.

BOBBY ROBSON (Inside-right): Albion dipped deep into their bank balance to sign this skilful inside-forward from Fulham last March. The London club had previously refused several tempting offers. Great dash makes him very dangerous near goal and he should prove as a double spear-head with Allen. Born in Durham he was first on Middlesbrough's books as an amateur. He joined Fulham in 1950 and made his debut at the age of 17. Gained first major honour for Young England against Young Denmark at Portsmouth, September, 1955.

RONNIE ALLEN (Centre-forward): One of the fastest, cleverest and most elusive centre-forwards in the game. Allen, Staffordshire-born, came from Port Vale at a fee of £18,000 in 1950 as a right-winger, and his experience on the wing is shown by his frequent roamings to the flanks, where he can cross a ball with the best. Capped for England against Scotland and Switzerland three seasons ago, and always a man to be reckoned with for further honours.

BRIAN WHITEHOUSE (Inside-left): Still under 21, Brian is a local boy who, now that he has finished his National Service with the Army, is likely to make a determined bid to hold this position in the League side. Not a great ball player, but a strong and fearless player, always on the lookout for scoring chances. He should get plenty of chances when Allen goes roaming.

GEORGE LEE (Outside-left): Albion paid a fee of £11,000 to Nottingham Forest in 1949 for this consistent winger, and they have obtained full value. Lee began with York City in war-time football, and with Albion he has been a most reliable player. Fast and with good ball control, he centres with considerable accuracy, and is also fond of cutting in for a shot, which often puts him among the scorers.

ARSENAL

Colours—Shirts: Red, White Sleeves and Collars. Knickers: White
Stockings: Blue, White Rings, White Tops.

1. (Goal)

Kelsey

2. (Right-back)

Charlton

3. (Left-back)

Evans

4. (Right-half)

Wills

5. (Centre-half)

Dodgin

6. (Left-half)

Holton

7. (Outside-right)

Clapton

8. (Inside-right)

Tapscott

9. (Centre-forward)

Roper

10. (Inside-left)

Bloomfield

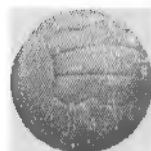
11. (Outside-left)

Tiddy

Referee:

Mr. J. Kelly

(Nr. Chorley, Lancs.)



Linesmen:

Mr. V. N. Guy
(Southampton, Hants.)
[Red Flag]

Mr. C. N. English
(Chelmsford, Essex)
[Yellow Flag]

Result of the corresponding match last season: Arsenal 2, West Bromwich Albion 0

Lee

11. (Outside-left)

Whitehouse

10. (Inside-left)

Allen

9. (Centre-forward)

Robson

8. (Inside-right)

Griffin

7. (Outside-right)

Barlow

6. (Left-half)

Kennedy

5. (Centre-half)

Dudley

4. (Right-half)

Williams

3. (Left-back)

Howe

2. (Right-back)

Sanders

1. (Goal)

WEST BROMWICH ALBION

Colours—Shirts: Navy Blue and White Stripes. Knickers: White.
Stockings: Navy Blue and White Rings.

ALBION MEN GOT TEN SHILLINGS EACH FOR WINNING THE CUP

Jottings by Spectator

A STOCK joke, repeated more often than usual in this summer when our weather has been more suitable for football than cricket, refers to the probability that the sun will be sure to blaze down as soon as the football season starts. Well, we have now reached the month of September, which according to some people is the proper time for the football season to begin.

Whether our summer will come at the same time I can't say. But those, including our cricketer friends, who are convinced that the arrival of summer and the start of the football season are sure to coincide, may be reminded that about the hottest football or cricket day ever was in the month of September. On the first Saturday of the ninth month of 1912—the football season did not start until September in those times—the thermometer registered a shade temperature over ninety in many parts of the country.

Spectators Who Fainted

It was so hot that pails of water were supplied by the clubs for the spectators who fainted in almost countless numbers, and the heat got some of the players down to such an extent that many League clubs finished without their full quota of players. There was no superfluous flesh left on the players at the end of that afternoon.

Anyway, the real clash between football and cricket interests is now over and done with for another year. The last of the season's Test matches is a thing of the past. It was played at Kennington Oval. That fact, coupled with the visit of West Bromwich Albion to our ground, serves as a reminder that the Throstles were the last team to win the F.A. Cup on this famous ground. That was in 1892.

Higher Wages—Plus Bonus

Care to cast your mind back thus far? Things have certainly altered considerably since then. For instance, the story is told that the members of the early West Bromwich Albion first team received, as wages, three shillings and eightpence per match, which wouldn't have bought them a packet of twenty cigarettes in those days. For the honour of winning the F.A. Cup they got ten shillings per man, with their team containing players whose names have been

handed down through the years—such as goalkeeper Reader, who wore long trousers, and winger Billy Bassett.

By stages the weekly wage of the pro footballers was raised to four pounds per week. I can't be lured into an argument as to how the four pounds compared, in purchasing value, with the present maximum the players may receive.

Difference of Opinion

Nor, for that matter, am I prepared to stay, just now, to discuss the point on which there is some difference of opinion. That is whether the modern players compare, favourably or otherwise, with the giants of the past, who had much less cash in their pay packets.

No such thing as a bonus for wins or draws was allowed in those olden days, either. There are still some people who say that it should not be necessary to hold out the bait of a bonus for extra effort. Having mixed much with players of many clubs, I would say that the bonus isn't necessary to induce the fellows to go all out.

Never have I heard any player, at the end of any match, suggest that he was sore about missing the bonus, blame the loss of a pound on a forward pal who missed a scoring chance, or on his goalkeeper who muffed a shot. Anyway, the bonus for wins and draws has become part and parcel of the financial arrangements between clubs and players.

During the close season a proposition that the bonus should be increased did not receive sufficient votes for it to be carried. As I don't believe that the possibility of extra money affects the play or the players to any considerable extent, I can't very well proceed, logically, to enlarge on a purely personal opinion that the direct reward for away wins should be greater than the bonus for home wins.

A Penalty Kick Novelty

Taking a side road to get away from matters of money, and turning to actual play, what are the chances of novelties being introduced, in this direction or that, during the present season? One correspondent of mine is definitely of the opinion that new ideas are what the game needs most. Maybe he is right.

In the course of his letter he says—and he is certainly right about this—that although each season brings its many tragedies of points dropped because of penalty kick failures, the fellows who take spot kicks seldom try different methods. Yet this might be done, and was actually done in a non-competitive game last season.

When a side made up of old Internationals played a match against Leeds United they were awarded a penalty kick. It was taken by that famous Irish player Peter Doherty, whose sense of humour is highly developed. Instead of trying to bang the ball either high or low from the penalty spot past the opposing goalkeeper, the manager of Doncaster Rovers, he merely tapped the ball a yard or so forward.

As he did so Raich Carter ran from his place outside the penalty area, to finish off the penalty kick with a shot which beat the Leeds goalkeeper, who was obviously flabbergasted by this extraordinary method of using a penalty kick. The goal duly counted, as no regulation had been broken.

As to whether, if such a novelty were introduced in matches with points at stake, the failures would be thereby reduced, I have my doubts. Even Peter Doherty himself is not so sure. He said afterwards that

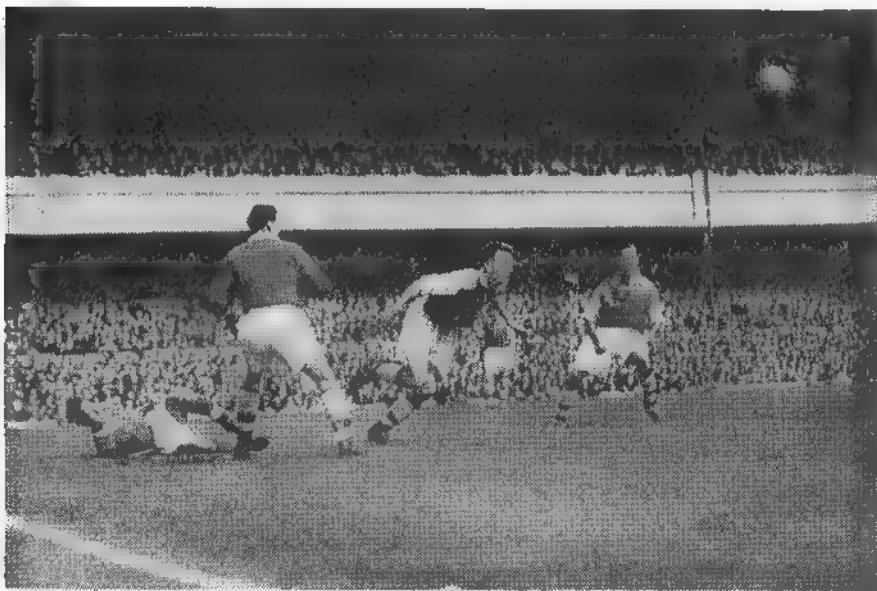
he would have no objection to one of his own players trying it on in a League match, but added this important proviso:—"If our side was four or five goals up already!"

Why the Throstles?

A query on different lines reaches me from another reader. Looking forward to the match with the Albion, he wants to know how it comes about that the West Bromwich players are regularly referred to as the Throstles. Here is the answer, regarding which please bear in mind that in some parts of the country thrush is another name by which the thrush is known.

In the long ago, the Albion played on a football pitch surrounded by hawthorn hedges, in which the "throstles" built their nests and sang their songs. "Let's watch the Albion and listen to the throstles at the same time" was an expression which became popular in the surrounding district. So the pet name was officially adopted, and to this day the crest on the club letter paper shows a thrush perched on top of a goalpost. That's the story. Connected with it I can't resist the obvious crack: the Gunners, of all opposing teams, should be able to shoot the thrush off its perch.

Meantime, keep on asking questions.



THE FIRST MATCH

Bill Dodgin clears a Cardiff attack watched by Dave Bowen in the first match of the new season at Highbury which resulted in a goalless draw.

ARSENAL MATCHES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saturday, 18th August, drew with Cardiff City (Home) 0-0

Team: Kelsey; Charlton, Evans; Goring (Capt.), Dodgin, Bowen; Clapton, Tapscott, Holton. Bloomfield, Tiddy.

Referee: Mr. F. H. Gerrard (Preston).

Tuesday, 21st August, beat Burnley (Home) 2-0. (Half-time: 0-0)

Team: Kelsey; Charlton, Evans; Wills, Dodgin, Goring (Capt.); Clapton, Tapscott, Holton. Bloomfield, Tiddy.

Referee: Mr. K. Howley (Middlesbrough).

Goalscorers: Tiddy, Bloomfield.

Saturday, 25th August, lost to Birmingham City (Away) 2-4. (Half-time: 2-0)

Team: Kelsey; Charlton, Evans; Wills, Dodgin, Holton (Capt.); Clapton, Tapscott, Roper. Bloomfield, Tiddy.

Referee: Mr. A. L. Burnham (Market Harborough).

Goalscorers: Holton, Roper.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Saturday, 18th August, beat Charlton Athletic (Away) 4-1. (Half-time: 1-0)

Team: Sullivan; Wills, Doughty; Smailes, Fotheringham, Petts; Nutt, Herd, Vernon. Roper (Capt.), Haverly.

Referee: Mr. D. C. Roach (Middlesex).

Goalscorers: Roper 3, Nutt.

Wednesday, 22nd August, drew with Chelsea (Away) 1-1. (Half-time: 1-0)

Team: Sullivan; Nicholas, Doughty; Smailes, Fotheringham (Capt.), Petts; Nutt, J. Barnwell, Herd, Swallow, Haverly.

Referee: Mr. J. L. Lockton (London).

Goalscorer: Swallow.

Saturday, 25th August, beat Ipswich Town (Home) 5-2. (Half-time: 1-2)

Team: Sullivan; Greenwood, Nicholas; Petts, Dove, Doughty; Nutt, Herd, Groves (Capt.). Swallow, Haverly.

Referee: Mr. C. A. Baker (Sevenoaks).

Goalscorers: Herd 2, Swallow 2, Groves.



J. PETTS

A young player whose performances in the Combination side have been full of promise.

ARSENAL v. W.B.A.

Previous Matches

DIVISION I

	Home Away			Home Away	
1911-12	0-2	1-1	1933-34	3-1	0-1
1912-13	1-0	1-2	1934-35	4-3	3-0
1919-20	1-0	0-1	1935-36	4-0	0-1
1920-21	2-1	4-3	1936-37	2-0	4-2
1921-22	2-2	3-0	1937-38	1-1	0-0
1922-23	3-1	0-7	1949-50	4-1	2-1
1923-24	1-0	0-4	1950-51	3-0	0-2
1924-25	2-0	0-2	1951-52	6-3	1-3
1925-26	1-0	1-2	1952-53	2-2	0-2
1926-27	4-1	3-1	1953-54	2-2	0-2
1931-32	0-1	0-1	1954-55	2-2	1-3
1932-33	1-2	1-1	1955-56	2-0	1-2

Arsenal's score shown first.

Summary of League Encounters

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HOME	25	17	5	3	53	25	39
AWAY	25	6	3	16	26	46	15
	50	23	8	19	79	71	54

F.A. Challenge Cup

1901—Second Round: W.B.A. won 1-0.

1928—Third Round: Arsenal won 2-0.

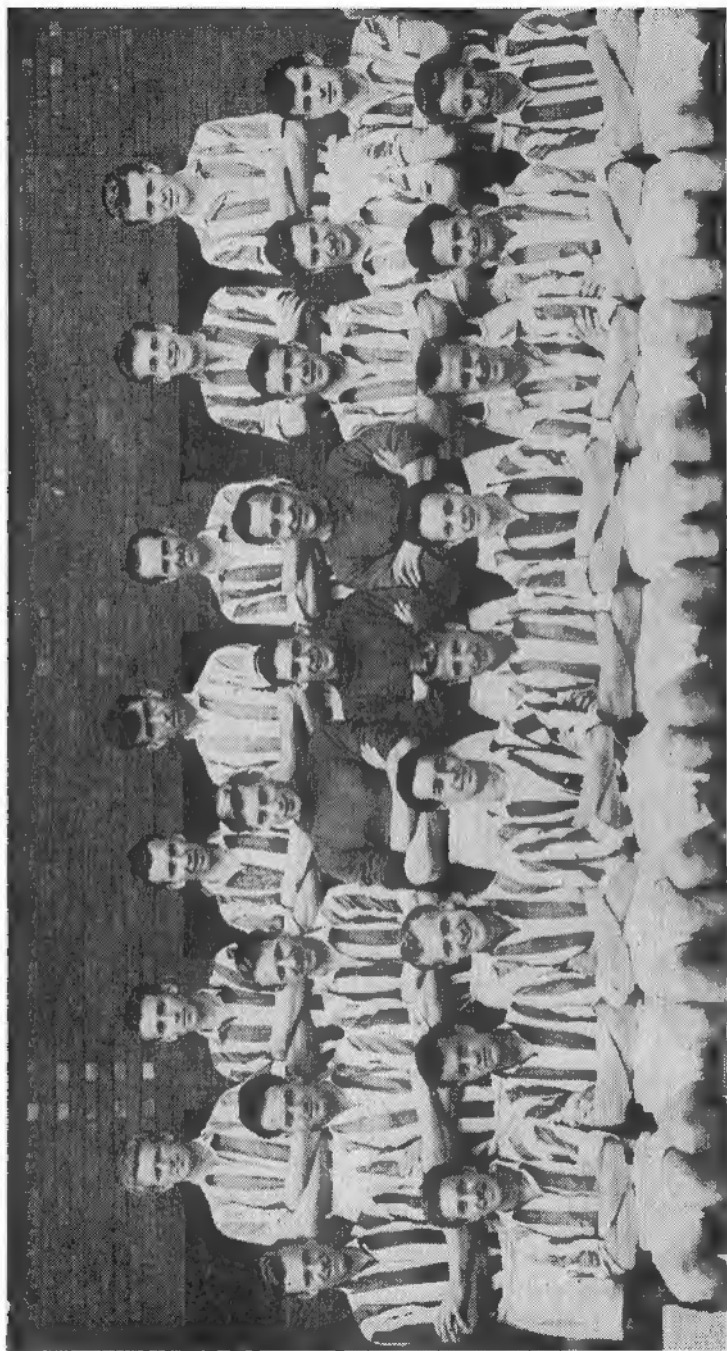
1937—Sixth Round: W.B.A. won 3-1.

F.A. Charity Shield

1931—Arsenal won 1-0.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

The arrangements for the Football Combination Championship this season follow the same lines as in 1955-56. At the annual meeting in June the clubs in membership discussed at considerable length the various alternatives to the present "county cricket" method where all clubs do not necessarily meet each other and, short of returning to the old method of Cup and League which meant in some cases that certain clubs met four times in a season, a suitable alternative did not appear to be possible. The Committee and the clubs themselves are alive to the fact that none of the methods adopted since the War have been entirely satisfactory for one reason or another, but they are loath to make another change unless and until a scheme can be devised to ensure popularity on the one hand and a full programme of Saturday matches on the other.



WEST BROMWICH ALBION 1956-57

Back Row: D. Kevan, F. Horne, F. Griffin, J. Kennedy, G. Lee, B. Whitehouse, R. Bradley. Middle Row: J. Dudley, W. Brookes, R. Barlow, F. Brown, G. Barusley, J. Sanders, S. Williams, G. Williams, T. Watson. Seated: J. Nicholls, K. Hadley, D. Howe, R. Allen, G. Summers, R. Horobin, M. Setters, L. Millard, W. Carter.



PLAYER OF THE WEEK

JIM BARRETT

Now the pride of Nottingham Forest, is the former West Ham
inside-forward whose hat-trick last Saturday
brought him a total of seven goals in three games.

Football League Division I

1954	Opponents	Venue	F.A.
Aug. 18	CARDIFF CITY	HOME	0 0
" 21	BURNLEY	HOME	2 0
" 25	Birmingham City	Away	2 4
" 28	Burnley	Away	1 3
Sept. 1	WEST BROM. A.	HOME	.....
" 4	PRESTON N.E.	HOME	.....
" 8	Portsmouth	Away	.....
" 10	Preston North End	Away	.....
" 15	NEWCASTLE U.	HOME	.....
" 22	Sheffield Wed.	Away	.....
" 29	MANCHESTER U.	HOME	.....
Oct. 6	MANCHESTER C.	HOME	.....
" 13	Charlton Athletic	Away	.....
" 20	TOTTENHAM H.	HOME	.....
" 27	Everton	Away	.....
Nov. 3	ASTON VILLA	HOME	.....
" 10	Wolverhampton W.	Away	.....
" 17	(1) BOLTON W.	HOME	.....
" 24	Leeds United	Away	.....
Dec. 1	SUNDERLAND	HOME	.....
" 8	(2) Luton Town	Away	.....
" 15	Cardiff City	Away	.....
" 22	BIRMINGHAM C.	HOME	.....
" 25	Chelsea	Away	.....
" 26	CHELSEA	HOME	.....
" 29	West Bromwich A.	Away	.....
1955			
Jan. 5	(3)		
" 12	PORTSMOUTH	HOME	.....
" 19	Newcastle United	Away	.....
" 26	(4)		
Feb. 2	SHEFFIELD WED.	HOME	.....
" 9	Manchester United	Away	.....
" 16	(5) Manchester City	Away	.....
" 23	EVERTON	HOME	.....
Mar. 2	(6) Tottenham Hotspur	Away	.....
" 9	LUTON TOWN	HOME	.....
" 16	Aston Villa	Away	.....
" 23	(S.F.) WOLVES	HOME	.....
" 30	Bolton Wanderers	Away	.....
Apr. 6	LEEDS UNITED	HOME	.....
" 13	Sunderland	Away	.....
" 19	BLACKPOOL	HOME	.....
" 26	CHARLTON A.	HOME	.....
" 27	Blackpool	Away	.....
May 4	(Final)		

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) = F.A. Cup Round dates.

Football Combination

1954	Opponents	Venue	F.A.
Aug. 18	Charlton Athletic	Away	4 1
" 22	Chelsea	Away	1 1
" 25	IPSWICH TOWN	HOME	5 2
" 28	CHELSEA	HOME	7 3
Sept. 1	Aldershot	Away	.....
" 5	Brighton & H.A.	Away	.....
" 8	PORTSMOUTH	HOME	.....
" 11	BRIGHTON & H.A.	HOME	.....
" 15	Birmingham City	Away	.....
" 18	SOUTHAMPTON	HOME	.....
" 22	WEST HAM U.	HOME	.....
" 29	Bournemouth & B.A.	Away	.....
Oct. 6	Southend United	Away	.....
" 13	READING	HOME	.....
" 20	Luton Town	Away	.....
" 27	NORWICH CITY	HOME	.....
Nov. 3	Plymouth Argyle	Away	.....
" 10	TOTTENHAM H.	HOME	.....
" 17	Queen's Park Rangers	Away	.....
" 24	COVENTRY C.	HOME	.....
Dec. 1	Northampton Town	Away	.....
" 8	SWANSEA TOWN	HOME	.....
" 15	CHARLTON A.	HOME	.....
" 22	Ipswich Town	Away	.....
" 25			
" 26			
" 29	ALDERSHOT	HOME	.....
1955			
Jan. 5	CARDIFF CITY	HOME	.....
" 12	Portsmouth	Away	.....
" 19	BIRMINGHAM C.	HOME	.....
" 26	Cardiff City	Away	.....
Feb. 2	West Ham United	Away	.....
" 9	BOURNEMOUTH	HOME	.....
" 16	SOUTHEUD U.	HOME	.....
" 23	Reading	Away	.....
Mar. 2	LUTON TOWN	HOME	.....
" 9	Norwich City	Away	.....
" 16	PLYMOUTH A.	HOME	.....
" 23	Tottenham Hotspur	Away	.....
" 30	QUEEN'S PARK R.	HOME	.....
Apr. 6	Coventry City	Away	.....
" 13	NORTHAMPTON T.	HOME	.....
" 19			
" 26	Swansea Town	Away	.....
" 27	Southampton	Away	.....

London Mid-week League

1954	Opponents	Venue	F.A.
Oct. 4	Tottenham Hotspur	Away	.....
" 10	Chelsea	Away	.....
" 24	WEST HAM U.	HOME	.....
Nov. 7	PORTSMOUTH	HOME	.....
" 14	Charlton Athletic	Away	.....
" 28	Crystal Palace	Away	.....
1955			
Feb. 6	CRYSTAL PALACE	HOME	.....
" 11	West Ham United	Away	.....
Mar. 13	TOTTENHAM H.	HOME	.....
" 20	Portsmouth	Away	.....
" 27	CHARLTON A.	HOME	.....
Apr. 10	CHELSEA	HOME	.....

THE HANDBOOK

We would like to draw the attention of our supporters to the Arsenal official Handbook which is on sale here this afternoon, price one shilling. It consists of 104 pages with a special art inset of photographs and is a most comprehensive record of everything concerning Arsenal. It will prove an invaluable companion for the new season and one, which, we are sure, our supporters will appreciate.

HALF-TIME SCOREBOARD

FIRST DIVISION

A Aston Villa v. Blackpool	F Man. Utd. v. Portsmouth
B Bolton v. Tottenham	G Preston v. Cardiff
C Burnley v. Birmingham	H Sheff. Wed. v. Newcastle
D Leeds v. Chelsea	J Sunderland v. Charlton
E Luton v. Manchester City	K Wolves v. Everton

SECOND DIVISION

L Fulham v. Huddersfield	N Lincoln v. West Ham
M Leyton Orient v. Bury	P Bristol Rovers v. Stoke

THIRD DIVISION

Q Brentford v. Watford	T Brighton v. Ipswich
R Colchester v. Q.P.R.	U Coventry v. Southend
S Millwall v. Bournemouth	V Gillingham v. Walsall

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

W Aldershot v. Arsenal

HOW MANY CAN YOU ANSWER?

- 1.—Which club has met in Football League matches 89 of the other 91 clubs—a record unequalled in the game's history?
- 2.—A player's first three goals in a season were scored in three Football League divisions! Can you name him?
- 3.—All four teams of a Football League club were captained at the same time by players all bearing the same name, but all unrelated! Who were they?
- 4.—Which club since the last war has conceded the most goals in any two successive Football League matches?
- 5.—Two of England's most famous forwards both played in different matches for two League clubs on the same day! What were the circumstances?
- 6.—Who achieved the unparalleled feat of heading four goals in one Football League match and all from centres by the same player?

The answers will appear in the programme for the match against Preston North End on Tuesday, 4th September. Answers to the Questions in the Burnley programme are as follows:—

- 1.—(a) Yes—in February, 1937; (b) yes—in December 22nd, 1931.
- 2.—Edmund Klishaw, who cost Sheffield Wednesday £20,000 when he left Bury in December, 1948. He had made only 17 League appearances for them when a knee injury ended his career.
- 3.—Arthur Machent signed for Chesterfield in November, 1927, and his brother Stanley in November, 1947. Both were right-half-backs.
- 4.—Donald Bell, a Bradford back, who was awarded it posthumously on September 9th, 1916, "for most conspicuous bravery" on the Somme.
- 5.—No. The oldest ever was Nell McBain when he kept goal for New Brighton against Hartlepool United on March 15th, 1947—four months after his 52nd birthday.
- 6.—Ray Lambert, who was 13 years and 189 days old when, in July, 1922, he signed as a boy amateur for Liverpool, with whom he later became a Welsh international back.